

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, and 31, 33, 35, 36, and 38 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 31, 33, and 38 are the independent claims. Claims 32, 34, 37, and 39 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 10 and 31 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

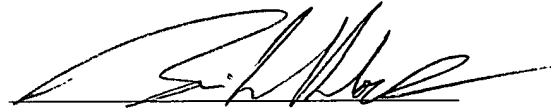
Applicant appreciates the indication that Claims 33 and 38 are allowed.

Applicant further appreciates the indication that Claims 34 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 34 has been substantially rewritten in that manner by incorporating the features of Claims 32 and 34 into independent Claim 1, and Claim 39 has been substantially rewritten in independent form by incorporating the features of Claims 37 and 39 into independent Claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1 and 10 should also be allowed. Similar amendments have been made to independent Claim 31, and therefore Applicant submits that it should also be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all the claims are in allowable form and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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